

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM SOCI CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: STATE 157953, BANGKOK 17849, BANGKOK 18288

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE Q, NAME: THU HAT. (NAME MAY BE USED IN USG DOCUMENTATION
FOR UNHRC). THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN PRASAT, SURIN,
JUNE 16, 1978.

2. SOURCE Q, THU HAT, 24, WAS FROM CCHUK VILLAGE, KASIANG
COLLECTIVE, CHENG KAL DISTRICT, ODDAR MEANCHEY PROVINCE.
IN APRIL, 1978, HE WAS FORCED TO MOVE TO SREY SNAM, SIEM REAP
PROVINCE. HE ARRIVED IN THAILAND MAY 27, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT
FOLLOWS:

2. CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA QTE I LIVED IN
SREY SNAM. THE SITUATION IN CHHUK WAS VERY BAD, BUT FOOD RATIONS
IMPROVED WHEN I WAS TAKEN TO SREY SNAM. IN SREY SNAM, WE HAD
A BOWL OF RICE GRUEL TWICE A DAY.

3. QTE IN BOTH PLACES, WE WORKED IN THE FIELDS. I TRANSPLANTED
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RICE SEEDLINGS AND HAULED FERTILIZER. IN THE DRY SEASON, I HELPED
DIG A WATER RESERVOIR. WE WORKED FROM 0430 TO 1100, FROM 1200
TO 1700, AND FROM 1800 TO 2230. DURING THE RAINY SEASON, WHEN
WE PLANTED RICE, WE RESTED IN THE EVENINGS.

4. QTE I WAS MARRIED WITH A ONE YEAR OLD BABY. WE LEFT THE BABY
AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER WHEN WE WENT TO WORK AT 0430 AND FETCHED

THE BABY ON THE WAY HOME AT NIGHT. LOTS OF BABIES WERE BORN IN MY VILLAGE, BUT THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE WAS VERY HIGH.

5. QTE MANY VILLAGERS ARE BEING RELOCATED.
NO REASON WAS GIVEN, BUT WE NOTICED THAT MANY VILLAGERS NEAR THE THAI BORDER HAVE BEEN MOVED AWAY FROM THE BORDER.

6. SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND PUNISHMENT QTE DURING MEETINGS, WE WERE WARNED NOT TO STEAL, FIGHT, OR QUARREL. IF YOU ARE LATE FOR WORK, THE FIRST TIME YOU ARE WARNED. THE SECOND OR THIRD TIME YOU ARE KILLED. IF YOU CRITICIZE THE NEW SYSTEM, YOU ARE KILLED IMMEDIATELY. NO ONE EVER HEARD OF ANY OTHER CRIMES, SUCH AS STEALING OR MURDER. WE WERE TOO AFRAID.

7. QTE THERE IS NO SYSTEM OF JUSTICE OR COURTS IN CAMBODIA. ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED NOT TO COMMIT SUCH AND SUCH OFFENSES. WHEN AN OFFENSE IS COMMITTED, THE KHMER ROUGE CAN CARRYOUT THE EXECUTION IMMEDIATELY. THE VILLAGE CHIEF ORDERS THE EXECUTION, AND THE SPIES (SCHLOP) ARE THE EXECUTIONERS. ONLY WHEN THERE ARE MASS EXECUTIONS ARE THE SOLDIERS CALLED IN.

8. EXECUTIONS QTE I WAS A SOLDIER BEFORE APRIL 1975, A PRIVATE. I FLED CAMBODIA BECAUSE THE KHMER ROUGE DISCOVERED THAT I HAD BEEN A SOLDIER. SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE MUST HAVE INFORMED THEM. I WOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED FOR BEING A SOLDIER.
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9. QTE BEFORE I FLED, IN APRIL AND MAY, MANY FORMER SOLDIERS WERE ARRESTED. FIVE OR SIX KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS WOULD COME TO THE VILLAGE AND PICK UP THE FORMER SOLDIERS. THE SOLDIERS DID NOT DARE RESIST BECAUSE THEY ARE PICKED UP SEPARATELY. THE SOLDIERS WERE TORTURED BY BEATING TO TRY TO FORCE THEM TO REVEAL WHO ELSE HAD BEEN A SOLDIER. AFTERWARD, THEY WERE DRAGGED INTO THE FOREST, WHERE THEY "DISAPPEARED." THE SOLDIERS WERE CALLED BY THE KHMER ROUGE, "OPPRESSORS OF THE PEOPLE WHO DESERVED DEATH."

10. QTE EARLIER, A FRIEND OF MINE AND I TRANSPORTED ABOUT 70 SUSPECTED FORMER SOLDIERS TO STENG AND O CHIK AND LATER TO KOUK TAPEANG AND PONGRO TA TRUONG. THE FORMER SOLDIERS WERE TOLD THEY WERE BEING MOVED TO REPAIR A DAM. AFTER THE DAM WAS REPAIRED, A LARGE MEETING WAS CALLED. THE SOLDIERS WERE THEN TIED UP, CARRIED AWAY AND EXECUTED.

11. QTE EVEN THOUGH THE KHMER ROUGE DISCOVERED THAT I WAS A FORMER SOLDIER, AT FIRST THEY DID NOTHING TO ME BECAUSE MY VILLAGE WAS VERY BIG. THEY WERE AFRAID THAT THEY WOULD ALERT OTHERS. A FEW DAYS BEFORE I FLED, THEY BEGAN TO TAKE SOLDIERS FROM MY VILLAGE. FIVE FRIENDS OF MINE WERE TAKEN AWAY TO THE FIELDS,

BEATEN, THEN TAKEN TO THE FOREST. I SAW THIS. I FLED SOON AFTER.

12. QTE BEFORE, I HEARD OF THE SAME THING HAPPENING IN OTHER VILLAGES, BUT I KEPT WORKING, HOPING THAT I WOULD NOT BE DISCOVERED. AFTER THIS HAPPENED, THE WOMEN WERE ORCED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE MEN WHO HAD BEEN KILLED.

13. QTE IN 1977, THERE WERE STILL ETHNIC CHINESE IN CAMBODIA. LAST YEAR IN JUNE OR JULY, TWO CHINESE STOLE MANIOC PLANTED BY THE COLLECTIVE. THEY WERE CAUGHT ANDHAULED TO A FIELD ABOUT 500 METERS FROM THE VILLAGE. THEY WERE CLUBBED TO DEATH AND FEEL INTO HOLES PREPARED IN THE FIELD.

14. QTE IN THE TWO DISTRICTS IN WHICH I LIVED, MANY CHINESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE TAKEN AWAY IN LATE 1977 AND 1978. NONE WAS LEFT. I DID NOT SEE THE EXECUTIONS, BUT THE SPIES (SCHLOP) TOLD ME THAT THE CHINESE HAD BEEN EXECUTED. THEY GAVE NO REASON.

15. QTE EARLY THIS YEAR, I SAW ABOUT THIRTY CARTS LOADED WITH BAGGAGE PASS THROUGH MY VILLAGE. ABOUT 200 CHINESE FOLLOWED BEHIND THE CARTS. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY WERE TO BE RESETTLED IN BENG . THEY HAD COME FROM DAMMAK DAMREI AND CHAMKAR CHEK. THERE WERE IVE KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS GUARDING THEM, BUT THE CHINESE LOOKED HAPPY. THE NEXT DAY THE CARTS CAME BACK WITH ALL THE GOODS AND LUGGAGE STILL LOADED, BUT NOT THE CHINESE. A CART DRIVER TOLD ME THAT THE CHINESE HAD BEEN EXECUTED. AFTER THAT I SAW NO MORE CHINESE.

16. HUMAN, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS QTE THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS HUMAN OR CIVIL RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA. ONLY THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE RIGHTS.
O'DONOHUE

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